

## West Nile Virus Mosquitoes Face Expanded Assault

### Team Plans For Additional Spraying and other action to combat WNV

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) received \$500,000 from the 2004 Utah Legislature to expand mosquito spraying in areas outside the state's established mosquito abatement districts. The spraying is intended to target mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus (WNV).

State and local health agencies, mosquito abatement districts as well as the UDAF and others continue to prepare for a second and presumably more intense WNV year in 2004. The expanded prevention and abatement program is one of several steps being taken to attempt to lessen the impact of WNV in Utah this year.

The UDAF met recently with various local, state and federal agencies and organizations concerned about the West Nile Virus. The committee identified 10 counties that had limited or no mosquito abatement districts formed, and invited the counties to apply for funding to begin or expand mosquito spraying. The 10 counties are: Cache, Rich, Morgan, Summit, Wasatch, Daggett, Sanpete, Wayne, San Juan, and Grand. Funds will be available on a cost-share basis, meaning they will be asked to match a portion of any funds granted to them.

The committee has scheduled an April 7th teleconference to discuss how and when to begin the expanded spray program. Contact Dick Wilson for more information: (801) 538-7123.

Of Utah's 29 counties, 11 have countywide abatement districts, six have districts that service a portion of the county, and 12 counties have no abatement districts.



## WEST NILE ADVICE FOR UTAH HORSE OWNERS

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is strongly advising horse owners throughout the state to protect their animals by vaccinating them for the West Nile Virus by April or May of this year.

If you vaccinated your horse last year with the recommended number of shots, then a single "booster" shot will be sufficient this year. If you have not vaccinated your animal yet, you are advised to administer two in the spring and one at the beginning of August. Horse owners can obtain the vaccine from most local veterinarian.

Horse owners can protect their animals by applying approved repellants to the animals and by controlling mosquitoes and mosquito breeding areas. Horse owners may also protect the animals by putting them in the barn or other enclosed structures.

For more information about the West Nile Virus, please visit the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's web page at: [www.ag.utah.gov/](http://www.ag.utah.gov/) or the Utah Department of Health's web page: [www.health.utah.gov/](http://www.health.utah.gov/). Contact Larry Lewis at the UDAF for more information. (801) 538-7104 or C 514-2152.



# UTAH AG NEWS

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Agriculture: Your Food Resource

on the

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Governor  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food  
Deputy Commissioner  
Public Information Officer

Olene S. Walker  
Cary G. Peterson  
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## Commissioner Peterson Promotes Watersheds During Dixie Visit

Understanding watersheds, and why they are important to our lives was one message delivered by Commissioner Peterson during a live interview on St. George radio station KDXU March 8th. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is working with Governor Olene Walker to educate Utahns about the benefits of protecting watersheds.

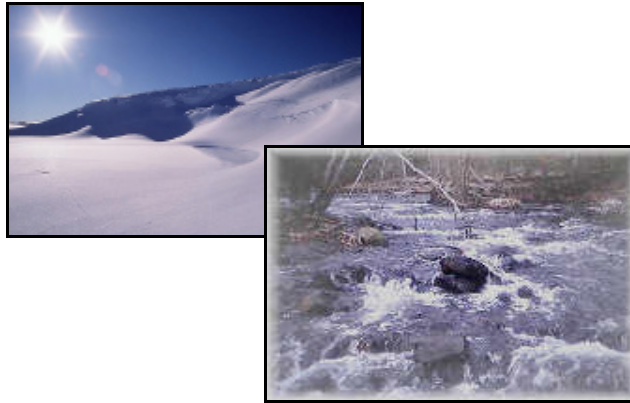
"Every square foot of our state is part of a watershed," Commissioner Peterson told the audience. "What we do to protect that land can add to the quality and quantity of water in our state," he added.

Watersheds are areas where water drains to a single location like a river or lake. Proper management of the soils and plant life in the area can increase the amount of water that flows from the watershed.

The Governor's Watershed Initiative has a web page ([www.adoptawaterbody.com](http://www.adoptawaterbody.com)) that contains comprehensive information on programs, and shows how to adopt a waterbody. The initiative hopes to double the number of organizations, school classes and families participating in the existing "Adopt-a-Waterbody" program. The initiative also encourages fourth grade students to understand five key questions about watersheds: 1. What is a watershed? 2. Where is my watershed? 3. How healthy is my watershed? 4. Where does the water go? 5. What can I do?



(left) DNR Executive Director, Bob Morgan and Commissioner Cary G. Peterson are interviewed about watersheds on St. George radio station KDXU.



## Utah Snow Pack Below Normal Conservation Still The Word

Utah's snow pack totals fell from more than 100 percent to about 80 percent during March's warm temperatures, prompting calls for continued water conservation by Commissioner Peterson.

The leaders of Utah's water industry met in St. George March 9th through the 11th to share information about the state's snow pack, and make plans for the coming year. As of early March 22nd, the statewide snow pack was put at 80 percent of normal.

Listed below are Utah's various river drainages and their listed percentage above or below average.

### Utah Snow pack Totals updated: 03/22/04

BEAR RIVER	71%
WEBER-OGDEN	84%
PROVO RIVER	84%
TOOELE	107%
GREEN RIVER	74%
DUCHESNE	81%
PRICE-SAN RAFAEL	68%
DIRTY DEVIL	81%
SE UTAH	79%
SEVIER RIVER	79%
BEAVER RIVER	83%
ESCALANTE R	81%
VIRGIN	72%

**STATE 80%**

## Governor Walker Visits UDAF To Promote Her Watershed Initiative During National Agriculture Week

Governor Olene Walker taught a group of Salt Lake City fourth graders about the benefits of watersheds and agriculture as part of National Agriculture Week.

"Our watersheds are our life sheds," she told the students. "We have selected watersheds throughout our state, which need cleaning and caring for, and it will take a state-wide, team effort to meet the challenge."

Under the Walker Work Plan the governor has selected 25 segments of key rivers and lakes for water quality improvements. These 25 watersheds cover more than a fifth of the state.

Walker took part in a hands-on teaching demonstration of how watersheds clean our water. She was joined by Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson and representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality.

"Watersheds are important to all Utahns because they provide the life-giving supply of water that grows our food and provides for our needs," Walker said. "We've set a lofty goal to take care of these vast areas, but together I know we can meet it."

(right) UDAF's Rich Riding and Governor Walker (below) demonstrate the importance of water-



sheds to Backman Elementary 4th graders during a National Agriculture Week program March 19.





# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION FOR UTAH FARMERS AND RANCHERS



## Security Requirements for farmers, ranchers and production agricultural operators

Beginning September 25, 2003, agricultural producers who ship or transport certain hazardous materials in quantities that require placards must now develop and implement a transportation security plan. This new Federal Department of Transportation rule affects transportation of hazardous materials needed to support commercial activities like farming and ranching. Its aim is to deter terrorist and other illegal acts while at the same time limiting a producer's exposure to liability in the event that an illegal act occurs.

For many years diamond-shaped signs, called placards, have been required on vehicles transporting certain types and quantities of hazardous materials. Placards provide first-on-scene emergency responders with the information necessary to quickly assess an accident situation from a distance, reducing the possibility of someone approaching the accident site without wearing protective clothing or equipment. Fire fighters, police, and other responders can thus avoid unnecessary exposure to a dangerous, perhaps life-threatening, material.

Placards indicate to emergency responders how to safely and appropriately handle the accident, mitigate the threat of environmental damage, and conduct life-saving operations. Examples of materials for which a placard is required include pesticides; fertilizers such as anhydrous ammonia or ammonium nitrate; fuels such as gasoline, diesel, and propane; and explosives such as dynamite and detonators.

If you do not ship or transport hazardous materials in amounts that require placards you do not need a security plan. Also, if suppliers deliver hazardous materials to

your operation, it is their responsibility to have a plan. If the security plan requirement applies to your operation, the plan must include measures to address personnel, unauthorized access, and en route transportation issues.

**Personnel Security:** If you use employees, to pick up and transport placarded hazardous materials from your supplier to your farm, your security plan must include measures to confirm information provided by the employee on his/her job application or resume. Note that this requirement only applies to employees hired after September 25, 2003, who are involved in the actual shipment or transportation of the materials covered by the plan.

**Unauthorized Access:** Your security plan must include measures to protect against unauthorized access by using locks or physical/visual observation. For example, if you stop on the way back to your farm for a snack or a meal, you should keep your vehicle in sight and/or lock or secure the material in vehicle.

**Security En Route:** Your security plan must include measures to ensure the security of the materials between the time you pick them up and the time you arrive at your farm. In this case, the most effective security measure would be to minimize the time that the shipment is in transit by going directly from your supplier to your farm. Remember: Your plan can be tailored to your operation. Your plan will not be collected by or kept on file at State or Federal DOT offices. Your plan will be enforced by State or Federal DOT as part of the general enforcement program for the HAZMAT carrier and shipper community but not as part of any roadside stop inspections.

## Nominate An Employee Of The Year

There are several UDAF employees who go "above and beyond" nearly every day who deserve the title "Employee of the Year." Maybe it's you.

Now is the time to submit your nomination for outstanding employee of the year. There is no nomination form for this, simply write up your nomination based on the following criteria, and submit it to Norma Atkinson in Human Resources by Friday, May 28th: (i) extraordinary competence in performing his/her function; (ii) creativity in identifying problems and devising workable, cost-effective solutions to them; (iii) excellent relationships with the public and other employees; (iv) a commitment to serving the public as the client, and (v) a commitment to economy and efficiency in government.

**The nomination deadline is May 28, 2004.**



# Nominations For Incentive Awards

The Incentive Awards Committee will be meeting soon. Please take the opportunity to submit a nomination for your co-workers who you feel are eligible for an incentive award. The eligibility criteria is as follows:

Cost Savings or Increased Earnings: Recommending procedures either within the employee's own job assignment or any other job assignment within the department which would decrease costs or recommending procedures which would increase earnings within the Department or State.

Job Efficiencies: Suggestions or implementation of methods which would conserve time in accomplishing the overall job objective, such as eliminating unnecessary steps, establishing a new more economical method for reaching the desired end product, etc.



Leadership or Initiative: Exercising leadership and/or initiative beyond that normally expected in an individual's assignment, such as carrying out assignments in a manner exceeding normal performance standards, willingly accepting and meeting required emergency or un-

usual deadlines requiring time and initiative beyond the normal scope of the position, etc.

Exemplary Performance on Special Projects: Carrying out an assigned project(s) that exceeds expected standards.

Exemplary Performance on Team Projects: Carrying out an assignment on a team project and individually exceeding expected standards (within the team structure).

The **nominations** need to be turned in to Norma Atkinson **no later than May 21, 2004**. If you need a nomination form, please call her at 538-7112.